

**Minutes
Board of Selectmen
November 13, 2023
Cotter Room
6:00 p.m.
(Executive Session)**

Members Present: Alex Hagerty, Chair, Kevin Donovan, Suzanne Djusberg, Kevin DiMarzio, Tim Chapin, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager.

1. Roll call vote to vote to enter into Executive Session: Mr. Donovan, aye; Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. Hagerty, aye - in accordance with MGL c. 30A, §21 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, to review and vote on Executive Session Minutes from 9/11/2023 and 10/23/2023. The Board will re-enter into Open Session upon the conclusion of the Executive Session.

**6:30 p.m.
(Open Session)**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Hagerty – Thanked all the families and individuals who “Take Pride in Abington” by adopting an island or bucket at various intersections from May 1 through the first fall frost. The adopters purchase the plants, water, and weed the areas throughout the season.
- Mr. Donovan – Our Veterans’ Agent held a get-together for the vets in town at the Senior Center last week with some of the Selectmen and department heads there. Kudos to Adam Gunn who put it together with Amy Barrett. The Tri-Town Parade was held on Saturday in Rockland. Next year it will be hosted by Abington.
- Ms. Djusberg – This year the Giving Tree will be at the Senior Center. The High School seniors are volunteering to take in gifts the first two weekends in December on Saturday and Sunday at the Senior Center.

The Abington Thanksgiving Game is at Whitman-Hanson at 10 a.m.

- Mr. DiMarzio – There is a Comedy Night Fundraiser on November 24th at 8 p.m. at Article 15 Brewing Co. in Rockland to support Law Enforcement Officers Support Foundation and Start Me Another Car Foundation.
- Mr. Hagerty – Congratulated the Abington High School Cheerleading Team for earning the MA School Administrators Association South Co-ed Division Championship.

You can register for flu shots through the Health Department or the Town's website.

The Town of Rockland also passed the zoning changes at the Southfield Redevelopment Authority. All three communities have now passed the zoning changes which now means the SRA can now go forward with future plans for obtaining water and sewer for potential development.

The Board presented a commendation to newly pinned Eagle Scout Michael O'Leary who did a project on Laidler Field to restore the Ernest H. Laidler Plaque and put up a new flag-pole, and cleaned up the park and did a fantastic job.

Public Comments:

Ashley Cutter, Rockland, wife of Kevin Cutter, police officer in Abington for 12 years: he filed for FMLA in July and hasn't heard anything since he passed in his paperwork. Mr. Hagerty – the Board can't comment on personnel matters that are in litigation.

6:30 p.m. FY2024 Tax Classification Hearing, Jolanta Briffett, Deputy Assessor. The presentation is attached. The Board of Assessors voted to recommend a single tax rate. There is not enough commercial property for a split tax rate. Similar size towns have a single tax rate. Motion by Mr. Donovan to stay with a single tax rate, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.

Town Manager Report:

- The position on the Board of Assessors has been posted on the website. Applications must be received by 11/23. Decision will be made at the joint meeting on December 11th. There is also a vacancy on Conservation and the Zoning Board.
- He has received many applications for the Fire Station/DPW Building Committee which closes on 11/14. He will make selections and send out notices mid-week. The first meeting and project kick-off is 11/20.
- John Stone notified us we were awarded \$350,000 from MassDOT for the reconstruction of the Centre Avenue Bridge which will cover the full amount of the project.
There is an RFP out for the Memorial Bridge project with funding through a \$30,000 grant from Mass. Historical and \$70,000 from CPA, which will give us a scope of work for documents sufficient for bidding for construction which is estimated to cost a million dollars, but we are hoping for some state and federal aid.
- Lindsay Wright has been awarded the Public Health Nurse Award for demonstrating exceptional dedication in carrying out the health mandates of the municipal public health agency. She received this from the MA Health Officers Association and congratulated

Lindsay.

- Abington entered into an intermunicipal agreement with the towns of Hingham, Rockland, Norwell, Hanover, Cohasset, Scituate; the purpose being to unite the towns in a study to research and verify the current and future water demands for each jurisdiction. The study will also look into the infrastructure requirements for the communities to access MWRA water. The study is expected to take up to a year. At the end of the study, we will re-evaluate and decide whether we want to pursue connections with the MWRA individually, jointly or not at all.

Motion by Mr. Chapin to adjourn at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Donovan, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst